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New Ohio Theatre & Villa Albertine
Present the American Premiere of
DOUGH
a Compagnie du Kairos production
Written and directed by David Lescot

Translated from French by Christopher Campbell
Starring Matthew Brown, Hannah Mitchell, and Zach Lusk
FIVE PERFORMANCES ONLY!

PRESS COVERAGE REQUESTED ON:

Wednesday, May 25 @ 7:30 pm
Thursday, May 26 @ 7:30 pm
Friday, May 27 @ 7:30 pm
Saturday, May 28 @ 2 pm
Saturday, May 28 @ 7:30 pm

New Ohio Theatre, Compagnie du Kairos, and Villa Albertine present the American premiere of ***DOUGH***, a new work by the acclaimed French playwright and director **David Lescot**, known for his envelope-pushing theatrical productions with Théâtre de la Ville in Paris. The play, presented for the first time in English, features American actors **Matthew Brown, Hannah Mitchell, and Zach Lusk**, and follows a man's life through the first-person tales of his relationship with money. Translated from French by Christopher Campbell, the work will be performed in a limited run at New Ohio Theatre (154 Christopher Street, NYC) from **May 25 through 28th, 2022**. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased online at <https://ci.ovationtix.com/34708/production/1027108> or by calling **866-811-4111**.

The subject of money is not new to **David Lescot** whose earlier works include a choral piece and musical devoted to the excesses of the financial world, *The Ponzi Scheme* (2012) and a play about bankruptcy, *Broke* (2007). In his new play ***Dough***, developed through a series of readings and performed by an American cast, the narrator (Lescot's alter ego Me, played by **Zach Lusk**) takes the audiences on a journey through his entire life, told from the perspective of money-related events. Presented as an uninterrupted string of life events and inhabited by over forty supporting characters (portrayed by **Matthew Brown** and **Hannah Mitchell** in multiple roles), the play takes a candid look at human life from an angle familiar to every member of a late-stage capitalist society.

"I have been interested in producing a play that has an uninterrupted, almost cinematic flow of a single take – and it is exciting to see this dream come true with *Dough*," says David Lescot. "It's an amazing experience to direct my own play in New York. The process of bringing this work to the stage took a long time and involved a lot of suspense – almost like in a thriller, everything came together at the very last moment. *Dough* was first presented to American audiences as a reading during the Princeton Festival *Seuls en Scène* in 2018 and also in a live reading in 2020 on the New Ohio Theater webinar. For both, I felt that the audiences really connected to this play. Despite the fact that Americans probably have a slightly different relationship with money than the French who are less inclined to talk about this subject, it looks like English-speaking audiences get it. I think many nuances of the text unveil even better in English than they do in the original. The American actors have been working with me for almost three years preparing for this premiere and have a great

command of my material. I'm curious about the audience's responses, especially to discover whether or not they will get the special humor of this play," he adds.

Asked why he decided to present *Dough* at the New Ohio, the theatre's Artistic Director Robert Lyons responds: "This show was originally scheduled for presentation during Covid quarantine. But its themes about money and life are, if anything, more timely than ever. This production speaks to the tenacity, patience, and relentless creative drive of these intrepid artists. It is with the greatest pleasure that we share them with the city of New York!"

The production features lighting design by the Bessie Award-winning NYC designer **Roderick Murray**.

The production of Dough is made possible with funding from FACE Contemporary Theater, a program of Villa Albertine and FACE Foundation, in partnership with the French Embassy in the United States, with support from The Ford Foundation, Institut français, the French Ministry of Culture, and private donors; New Ohio Theater, New York; and the Compagnie du Kairos, Paris. This work was developed at the Collapsable Hole. Compagnie du Kairos is supported by the Ministry of Culture - DRAC Ile de France.

Villa Albertine supports the translation and production of Dough as part of its aim to highlight the work of French playwrights—both in French and English translation—for a broad American audience. In recent years, greater attention has been devoted to developing productions of French plays translated to English staged with an American cast. The production of Dough is part of this momentum.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

David Lescot (Writer, Director) Author, stage director, and musician **David Lescot** is an associate artist of Théâtre de la Ville, Paris. His writing, like his stage work, seeks to mix theatre with non-dramatic forms, especially music. David's work has been recognized with a number of French and international awards (including the most important French national theatre award, Le Molière, for the Best Make Debut in 2009) and toured worldwide and has been translated into English, Japanese, German, Polish, Italian, Chinese, and Russian, to name just a few. Since 2001, Lescot is the Artistic Director of his own production company **La Compagnie du Kairos**. He also directs opera works across Europe. His recent work *Les Ondes magnétiques* was presented last season by La Comédie-Française –Théâtre du Vieux-Colombier in his own staging, a second collaboration with the famous troupe. American audiences had a chance to see his ***Portrait de Ludmilla en Nina Simone*** (*Portrait of Ludmilla in Nina Simone*), a musical work around Nina Simone's character, which was shown in 2018 at the Princeton University. davidlescot.com

Matthew Brown (Actor, multiple characters) is so thrilled to be part of *Dough*! Most recently Matthew has performed in Théâtre du Phare's one man show *Oh Boy!*, at Théâtre de la Ville, Paris and The Duke on 42nd St. presented by The New Victory Theater, directed by Olivier Letellier. Matthew has also toured around the world with The Wooster Group, dancing in their production of *Early Shaker Spirituals*. TV work includes appearing on the CBS show *Tommy*. Other favorite credits include work with Target Margin Theater, The Met Opera, and 600 HIGHWAYMEN at The Public Theater. mattheweatonbrown.com

Hannah Mitchell (Actor, multiple characters) is an actor, theater-maker, and teacher based in Brooklyn. She acts in plays and on-camera and creates original theatrical works, drawing from a broad array of influences, including clowning, sketch comedy, and contemporary dance. She was a 2019 Resident Artist with Mabou Mines, where she premiered her

evening-length show, *Warm-Line*. She performs regularly at the Brooklyn Comedy Collective as a member of the improv group Milk Run, and as a solo sketch comedian. Hannah has performed at many venues around NYC, including The Public Theater, The Armory, Lincoln Center, Segal Center at CUNY, HERE Arts Center, Target Margin Theater, The Invisible Dog, LifeWorld, Gibney Dance, Roulette, and Dixon Place, among others. Her work has been seen in festivals such as Crossing the Line, Bard SummerScape, and No Theme Festival. Hannah holds a BA in Theater and Performance from Bard College.

hannahmitchell.net

Zach Lusk (Actor; Me) is a Filipino-American theater artist, writer, SAT tutor, and barista. He is currently working on a philosophy book with the working title of *Everything is Star Wars: a series of essays by a barista with a liberal arts degree*. Past roles include Giri in *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*, Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*, and Kenny in *Edith Can Shoot Things And Hit Them*. One day he'd like to own and operate a cat café that doubles as a performance/rehearsal space in the evenings. Sarah Lawrence College, British American Drama Academy, National Theater Institute.

Roderick Murray (Lighting Design) is a Bessie-Award winning artist who has been designing lighting and installations for dance, music, and opera internationally since 1989.

Murray designed projects for Ralph Lemon, Benjamin Millepied, LA Dance Project, Wally Cardona, Dusan Tynek, Kathy Westwater, Yanira Castro, Luca Vegetti, among others. He also has a life-long collaboration with choreographer Kimberly Bartosik whose recent work *through the mirror of their eyes* was seen at New York Live Arts. Upcoming projects include a premiere by Raphael Xavier and a new *Romeo and Juliet* by LA Dance Project.

roderickmurraylighting.com

Villa Albertine is a new kind of cultural institution whose mission is to create a community that links France and the United States in a shared exploration of arts and ideas. With a team of 80 people deployed in 10 major cities—Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, New Orleans, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C.—Villa Albertine presents its innovative programming nationwide. This includes 60 customized residencies for artists, thinkers, and cultural professionals; a series of cultural and humanities initiatives and events; a magazine; and resources and convenings for professionals in the cultural sphere. Villa Albertine is an institution of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, with support from the French Ministry of Culture. villa-albertine.org

**Villa
Albertine** 

New Ohio Theatre is a two-time Obie Award-winning theatre that develops and presents the boldest and most innovative work from NYC's independent theatre community. They believe the best of this community, the small artist-driven ensembles and the daring producing companies who operate without a permanent theatrical home, are actively expanding the boundaries of who makes theatre, how theatre is made, and what theatre can be. They nurture, strengthen, and promote this community for NYC's most adventurous theater audiences. From their home in the West Village's historic Archive Building, New Ohio Theatre provides a high-profile platform for downtown's most mature, ridiculous, engaged, irreverent, gut-wrenching, frivolous, sophisticated, foolish and profound theatrical endeavors. For more info, visit NewOhioTheatre.org.